

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully submit that Inventive Group I should have been described in the Action as being drawn to a stent graft, not to a stent. The claims identified in the Action are directed to a stent graft. Further, Applicants emphasize that a stent graft and a stent are very different devices. A stent graft has walls through which fluids cannot leak. A stent graft can thus be used as a passageway for fluids. In contrast, a stent has open walls through which fluids can freely pass. A stent thus cannot be used as a passageway for fluids but rather is typically used to hold open an existing fluid passageway, such as a blood vessel.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 2, 2008, Applicants hereby elect for examination at this time Group I, claims 1-30, 70-78 and 100-145, drawn to a stent graft.

Claims 1-30, 70-78, 100-145 and 426-444 were pending. Claims 5-7, 13, 15, 16, 29, 71, 72, 75, 77, 100-125, 129-145, 430, 431, 433, 434, 436, 437, 439, 440, 442 and 443 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursue in a related application. Claims 1-3, 18, 24, 30, 76, 78, 126 and 128 have been amended to be more clearly directed to certain embodiments of Applicants' invention or to correct minor errors. Support for amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification, in particular, at page 6, lines 4-18; pages 14-16; and pages 20-24. New claims 445-447 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found, for example, at page 9, lines 7-8; page 14, lines 22-27; page 16, lines 1-2; page 20, lines 32-33; and page 25, lines 11-12. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments or new claims. Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14, 17-28, 30, 70, 73, 74, 76, 78, 126-128, 426-429, 432, 435, 438, 441 and 444-447 are now pending.

Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 8-12, 14, 17-28, 30, 70, 73, 74, 76, 78, 126-128 and 444-447 read on the elected invention.

Consideration of the pending claims in view of the above election and remarks is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any specific questions relating to this application, please contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,
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